

RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES FROM TERRORIST NATIONS

(Substitute Amendment)

Whereas, the Obama Administration has pledged to accept as many as 10,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees into the United States; and

Whereas, due to the conflicts in and around Syria and Iraq, many of the individuals seeking refugee status in the United States are unable to present critical biographical information to those responsible for verifying the identities of such individuals; and

Whereas, the United States House of Representatives' Committee on Homeland Security has found that many European countries have been overrun with refugees coming in from Syria and North Africa, overburdening the social services of those countries and creating a "look the other way" posture, allowing refugees to move freely within Europe without vetting; and

Whereas, unless proper verification of those individuals from Syria and Iraq can be fully demonstrated it is unlikely a complete threat assessment of those individuals can be performed and that the safety of those who will be asked to live in near proximity to those individuals can be fully guaranteed; and

Whereas, since 1992, the communities located in eastern North Carolina have received as many as 200 refugees each year; and

Whereas, the legitimacy and success of the refugee program based in eastern North Carolina is rooted in the dependability of investigative work of the United Nation's High Commissioner on Refugees and United States Immigration officials; and

Whereas, historically it has been the practice of refugee relocation agencies to decline the placement of individuals with severe medical problems, a history of mental illness or disability, or those with a criminal record; and

Whereas, as it is the case that neither the United Nation's High Commissioner on Refugees or United States Immigration officials are currently able to adequately demonstrate that the usual and customary high standards for acceptance into the program for local resettlement can be met, and

Therefore Be It Resolved, that in the interest of safety to our community and the desire to maintain the continued goodwill of those within our community toward ALL refugees finding their way to eastern North Carolina, that the Craven County Board of Commissioners opposes the relocation of any refugee from countries that have significant territory controlled by an organization designated by the State Department to be a Foreign Terrorist Organization, including but not limited to Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen.